

DRAFT (1-22-10)

**The Colorado Desert Archaeology Society
7th Annual Archaeology Weekend
Anza-Borrego Desert State Park Visitor Center
Borrego Springs, California
February 6-7, 2010**



ARCHAEOASTRONOMY

The importance of the sky to Historic & Prehistoric People

Saturday, February 6, 2010

Events:

- 9- 4:30 **Silent Auction** at the Begole Archaeological Research Center. Bidding closes 4:30 pm.
Winning bids announced 5:00 pm. (Winners need not be present)
- 9-4:00 **Native American basket and pottery display and demonstrations.** (Craft items on sale)
- 9:30-4:00 **Tours of the Archaeology and Paleontology Labs.**
Groups depart Visitor Center front door approximately every half hour.
- 9:30-3:00 **Kids Activities:** Fun table, Archaeological dig, arts & crafts.
- 10-3:00 **Display: Desert Plant Use by Native Americans: food, clothing, & medicine.**
By: ABDSP Volunteer Naturalist, Marge Hatcher.
- 12-1:00 **Talk: We have Wal-Mart the Native Americans had Desert-Mart.** By: ABDSP Naturalist Hank Barber.
- 1-3:00 **Pottery Making Demonstration** - Includes clay grinding and paddle & anvil construction techniques.
By Archaeologist, Bonnie Bruce. Clay will be available for spectator participation.
- 3-5:30 **Free Ice Cream Social:** Announcement of silent auction winning bids at 5:00.
Begole Archaeological Research Center.

Lectures:

- 9:30–10:30 **What the heck IS Archaeology?** And why is it important to Anza-Borrego Desert State Park visitors?
- 11-12:00 **Of Shamans & Stars . . . Mystery Circles of the Desert**
By Park Volunteer Archaeologist Nick & Bonnie Clapp
- 1-2:00 **Shamanistic Views of our Skies: Prehistoric Archaeoastronomy** By Dr. G. Dicken Everson
- 2:30-3:30 **Archaeoastronomy & Rock Art** By Archaeologist Ken Hedges

Sunday, February 7, 2010

Events:

9-2:00 **Native American basket and pottery display and demonstrations.** Craft items on sale.

9:30-12:00 **Tours of the Archaeology and Paleontology Labs.**

Groups depart Visitor Center front door approximately every half hour.

10-3:00 **Display: Desert Plant Use by Native Americans:** food, clothing, & medicine.

By: ABDSP Volunteer Naturalist, Marge Hatcher.

12-1:00 **Walk: Desert Drug Store.** By: ABDSP Certified Interpretive Guide, Abby Barker

1-3:00 **Pottery Making Demonstration** - Includes clay grinding and paddle & anvil construction techniques.

By: Archaeologist, Bonnie Bruce. Clay will be available for spectator participation.

Lectures:

9:30-10:45 **Ceramics Presentation & Workshop** By: Patrick Quinn, Ph.D.

Field Trips

1. **Clark Lake Petroglyphs** – Led by: Colorado Desert Archaeology Society volunteer, Chuck Bennett.
A three mile round-trip hike to a rock art site at the base of the Santa Rosa Mountains to view petroglyphs, interpreted as an early Cahuilla style, which were pecked into the reddish-brown desert varnish covered boulders in the area. We will meet at the Pegleg Monument at the junction of Route 22 and Henderson Canyon road. Meeting time is 8:30 AM and we will drive to our trailhead from there. High clearance vehicles are necessary and 4-wheel drive vehicles are preferred. We will return by 1:00 PM.
2. **Indian Hill Rock Art Shelter** – Led by archaeologists Joan Schneider and/or Ken Hedges and Steve Freers. A 3-mile round-trip hike to a rock art shelter with a visual demonstration talk on rock art as it applies to archaeoastronomy. We will meet at the interpretive panel at the entrance of Morteros Wash on Hwy S-2 in the south of the park at 9:30 AM. Need 4x4. Will drive and park and hike 3 miles round trip to Indian Hill. Back at the interpretive panel by 4 PM. Bring lunch, plenty of water, and usual desert gear and supplies.

Pre-registration and \$5.00 fee required for all field trips. For reservations call ABF at 760/767-4063.

During Archaeology Weekend: Check for last-minute field trip openings at the ABF table in front of the Visitor's Center.

What is Archaeoastronomy?

Archaeoastronomy is the study of how past people have understood the phenomena in the sky, how they used phenomena in the sky and what role the sky played in their cultures. Archaeological studies have identified many ancient sites around the world that align with the Sun, Moon, Venus, and stars, such as Polaris (north star) and Sirius, the brightest star in the sky. Experts believe that ancient peoples used astronomy to predict or pinpoint the seasons and harvesting times, and to establish times for ceremonial events. We also know, from historical texts, that certain battles and other events were tied astronomically to heavenly phenomena. Many of the great monuments and ceremonial constructions of early civilizations were celestially aligned. The Great Pyramid in Egypt, the Venus alignment of the Maya Palace in Mexico, or the solar alignments of Stonehenge are examples of this. Examples in the United States would be Chaco Canyon, and Cahokia. Within the Anza-Borrego Desert State Park we have recorded solstice sites and other celestially oriented rock alignments.